

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 181630Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 048

S E C R E T ATHENS 6216

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, IS

SUBJECT: AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY: DELIVERY OF  
SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BITSIOS

REF: A-STATE 195262 B-STATE 187196 C-ATHENS 5984

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF AMBASSADOR FROM ATHENS, DCM  
DELIVERED TO BITSIOS TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER RE-  
GARDING AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY. HE TOLD  
BITSIOS THAT SHORTAGES HAD CREATED VERY DIFFICULT PROB-  
LEMS FOR US AND, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, WE WOULD HAVE  
PREFERRED THE GOG TO RETURN MISSING AMMUNITION. NEVER-  
THELESS, IN VIEW OF THE PERSONAL REQUEST MADE BY BITSIOS  
TO SECRETARY IN HELSINKI, THE SECRETARY HAD ARRANGED THAT  
AN EXCEPTION SHOULD BE MADE IN THIS CASE.

2. BITSIOS READ THE SECRETARY'S LETTER CAREFULLY AND  
UPON COMPLETING IT ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION  
BE EXPRESSED TO THE SECRETARY FOR HIS HELP IN RESOLVING  
THIS DIFFICULT PROBLEM. BITSIOS SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVISE  
AVEROFF OF DECISION REACHED AND WOULD SUGGEST THAT AVEROFF  
CONTACT EMBASSY DIRECTLY TO DISCUSS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL  
WHAT AMOUNTS AND TYPE OF AMMUNITION SHOULD BE RETURNED AND  
WHAT GOG WOULD HAVE TO PAY FOR.

3. DCM THEN ADVISED BITSIOS THAT REPRESENTATIVE ASPIN  
OF THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, WAS AWARE OF THE  
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SOUDA BAY SHORTAGES AND WAS PRESSING FOR DECLASSIFICATION

OF THE INFORMATION. HE TOLD BITSIOS THAT ASPIN AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES HAD BEEN GIVEN CONFIDENTIAL BRIEFINGS BUT THAT USG WAS NOT AUTHORIZING THEM OR ANYONE ELSE TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC. DCM ADDED THAT IN EMBASSY BRIEFING OF SENATORS EAGLETON AND PELL THIS MORNING, SENATOR EAGLETON'S ADMINISTRATIVE AIDE, BRIAN ATWOOD, HAD RAISED SUBJECT OF SHORTAGES AND HAD BEEN ADVISED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS ACTING TO CORRECT THE SHORTFALL. DCM PROVIDED BITSIOS WITH THE GIST OF PRESS GUIDANCE TO BE USED IN WASHINGTON, IF SOUDA SHORTAGES SHOULD BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THROUGH A LEAD (STATE 187196 AND ATHENS 5984).

4. BITSIOS AGAIN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE SECRETARY'S ASSISTANCE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD ADVISE CARAMANLIS OF THE DECISION AND ALSO OF THE PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE. IF SENATOR EAGLETON RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE SOUDA SHORTAGES WITH CARAMANLIS OR BITSIOS, THEY WOULD RESPOND ALONG THE SAME LINES.

5. DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO OTHER ADDRESSEES AS DESIRED.  
KUBISCH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMMUNITION, SUPPLIES, ARMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AMMUNITION SHORTAGES AT SOUDA BAY: DELIVERY OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BITSIOS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, MASS, MMOL, GR, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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